

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

***STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION***

***Carol A. Murray, Commissioner***

**For Immediate Release**

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**SCHEDULED OPENINGS BEGIN FOR  
PORTSMOUTH, NH - KITTERY, ME LIFT BRIDGES**

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation announces daily scheduled openings for river traffic begin on Saturday, May 15 at the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge (US Route 1 Bypass) and the Memorial Bridge (US Route 1) over the Piscataqua River between Portsmouth, New Hampshire and Kittery, Maine.

The Long Bridge will open at 30-minute intervals (15 minutes before and 15 minutes after the hour) from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

The Memorial Bridge will open at 30-minute intervals on the hour and half hour, also from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

These scheduled openings will continue through October 31, 2004. Both bridges will continue to open "on-call" for commercial vessels in excess of 100 gross tons.

Due to structural steel repairs, the Memorial Bridge openings will be restricted from Monday, May 16 through Friday, May 21 for recreational and commercial vessels less than 100 gross tons to 6:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 3:00 PM, and 5:00 PM. Lifts for commercial vessels greater than 100 gross tons, inbound fishing ships, and inbound ferries will occur as soon as possible at all times.

Ship operators are reminded of the following US Coast Guard regulation, Section 117.11 (33 CFR Chapter 1), which is intended to eliminate unnecessary bridge openings: "No vessel owner or operator shall signal a drawbridge to open for any nonstructural vessel appurtenance which is not essential to navigation or which is easily lowered."